

**REMARKS OF COMMISSIONER GEOFFREY STARKS
AT THE WRC-23 UNITED STATES RECEPTION
DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

“LET’S BUILD THE FUTURE TOGETHER.”

Thank you, Steve, for the introduction.

Thank you, UAE and ITU staff, for your heroic efforts and for an utterly fabulous start to this event.

And thank you fellow delegates, from all member countries, for joining us here today. On behalf of the Federal Communications Commission, welcome, and I hope you enjoy the evening.

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Those of you who know me know how I committed I am to ensuring that every person, no matter who they are or where they live, shares in the benefits of digital innovation. Achieving that vision has always been important, but there is a new sense of urgency here in 2023. I know I feel it. Because as I’ve often said, today’s networks don’t just connect us in the here and now. They also build a bridge to a better tomorrow—and to the best version of ourselves we can possibly be, as individuals, as member states, and as a world community.

They drive economic growth and power our businesses—large and small. They expand opportunities for jobseekers and build the skills of our workforce. They help us reach doctors and make our healthcare state-of-the-art. They help our children pursue their education and see new horizons. When combined with the entrepreneurial spirit embodied within so many of our people, connected technologies dare us to dream bigger and reach for even higher goals, while turning our aspirations into success stories more often, and with greater impact.

Delegates and dignitaries, I strongly believe that the next four weeks hold tremendous promise for us to build that more just and inclusive digital future together.

We can do it by helping space innovators continue to innovate. Breaking down barriers of what mankind can achieve, while making broadband—the onramp to opportunity in the modern era—more available right here on Earth.

We can do it by securing a future for low-cost, low-barrier unlicensed innovation. Innovation that transcends any one technology, capturing everything from Wi-Fi to rural fixed wireless to potentially world-changing innovations like remote surgery.

And we can do it by creating and studying new opportunities for IMT in an increasingly scarce spectrum environment.

Because remember, delegates, radio spectrum is infrastructure. And there could not be a more important time to future-proof our infrastructure than this moment of serial innovation, driven by advancements in fields like AI. A moment when we are looking at connected technologies to

drive not just economic opportunity, but also the opportunity to operate more efficiently and with a greater understanding of our changing climate.

A special note of recognition to my extraordinary colleague, Anna Gomez, the FCC's newest Commissioner, and someone who many of you know from her significant work in helping the U.S. prepare for this Conference.

One last note. To our U.S. team, thank you. Your dedication over the past four years, and your willingness to give it your all over the next four weeks, make me proud to serve.

Let's build the future together.

Thank you.